

Message Text

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EO 11652: GDS
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SUBJ: FOREIGN ECONOMIC POLICY TOWARD AFRICA

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1. FOLLOWING KEYED TO PARAGRAPHS REFTEL.

2. PARA 7. (1). WE DO NOT BELIEVE THERE MAJOR INFRA-
STRUCTURE PROJECTS IN BURUNDI WHICH WE COULD TAKE ON.
WORLD BANK, GERMANS, FED AND CHINESE ALL ACTIVE IN ROAD
CONSTRUCTION. WHILE SIGNIFICANT POTENTIAL FOR HYDRO-
ELECTRIC GENERATION EXISTS, THERE IS NO MARKET FOR POWER.
BURUNDI WOULD, HOWEVER, BENEFIT GREATLY FROM INVESTMENTS
IN EAST AFRICAN TRANSPORT SYSTEM UPON WHICH IT IS DEPENDENT.

3. PARA 7. (2) WE DO NOT KNOW WHAT COULD BE DONE IN
THIS AREA THAT IS NOT ALREADY BEING DONE IN REGARD TO BURUNDI.

4. PARA 7 (3). IT IS IN TRAINING THAT WE COULD MOST
CLEARLY PROVIDE BENEFITS TO BURUNDIAN DEVELOPMENT IN WAYS
WHICH CURRENT PROGRAMS DO NOT PERMIT. SUBSTANTIAL TRAINING
PROGRAM TO DEVELOP TECHNICIANS AND ADMINISTRATORS AT UNDER-
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GRADUATE LEVEL COULD, IN THEORY, BE AS VALUABLE CONTRIBUTION
AS WE COULD MAKE. HOWEVER, TRADITIONAL PROBLEMS OF HOW TO MAKE
TRAINING RELEVANT TO BURUNDIAN STATE OF DEVELOPMENT AND ENSURE
THAT PERSONS EDUCATED WILL RETURN TO COUNTRY REMAIN TO BE RESOLVED.
AFRICAN MANPOWER DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM SUFFERS FROM WEAKNESS THAT
PEOPLE AT POST-GRADUATE LEVEL ARE OFTEN ALREADY IN GOVERNMENT
JOBS AND DIFFICULT TO RELEASE FOR A YEAR OR TWO.

5. PARA 7. (4). THIS IS PARTICULARLY APPLICABLE TO BURUNDI, AND GRB ATTEMPTING TO DEVELOP ECONOMIC COMMUNITY OF GREAT LAKES COUNTRIES AS VIABLE ECONOMIC UNION IN ORDER PROVIDE MARKET OF DIMENSIONS THAT WOULD PERMIT INVESTMENT IN IMPORT SUBSTITUTE INDUSTRY. IT MIGHT BE PRACTICAL FOR US TO BACK THIS GROUPING EITHER DIRECTLY OR THROUGH AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK.

6. PARA 7. (5). WE HAVE ALREADY COMPLETED STUDY ON HOW AID COULD CONTRIBUTE TO HEALTH SECTOR. GRB NOT PRESENTLY INTERESTED.

7. PARA 7 (6). FIRST US/BURUNDI PROJECT WILL BE DEVELOPMENT OF PEAT AS ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCE.

8. COMMENT. IN CASE OF BURUNDI ADDED AVAILABILITY OF US FUNDS WILL NOT PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO SOLUTION OF PROBLEMS BLOCKING COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT IN OUR OPINION. ALTHOUGH GRB CONSTANTLY SEEKING BIGGER DONATIONS, REAL BARRIERS TO DEVELOPMENT ARE LARGELY SOCIAL AND POLITICAL. LACK OF TRAINED MANPOWER STEMS CHIEFLY FROM UNWILLINGNESS OF TUTSI ELITE TO PERMIT HUTUS ENTER GOVERNMENT SERVICES. APPARENTLY SINCERE EFFORTS OF PRESIDENT BAGAZA AND OTHERS TO BRING ABOUT REFORMS TO IMPROVE LIVING CONDITIONS OF RURAL POOR ARE BEING SEVERELY DILUTED BY INABILITY OF BAGAZA TO SECURE THEIR IMPLEMENTATION THROUGH VISCOUS BUREAUCRACY. GENERAL RELUCTANCE OF TUTSI FUNCTIONARIES
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TO CONTRIBUTE TO HUTUS' WELFARE IS ONLY PART OF PROBLEM. LACK OF INDIVIDUAL HMNESTY, FEAR OF TAKING RESPONSIBILITY AND INHSRENT INCAPACITY TM MAINTAIN A STRUCTURED ORGANI-

ZATION ARE ALL SERIOUS HANDICAPS TO EFFECTIVE GOVERNMENT ADMINISTRATION. ON THE OTHER HAND, GOVERNMENT ALMOST COMPULSIVELY WANTS TO MAINTAIN CONTROL OVER ALL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES IN COUNTRY WHICH STIFLES INDIVIDUAL EFFORTS TO ORGANIZE INTO PRIVATE COOPERATIVES ETC.

9. AS A RESULT OF THESE STRUCTURAL WEKNESSES MUCH OF CURRENT DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE HERE REMAINS VERY MARGINAL AND RARELY RESULTS IN BURUNDIANS BEING ABLE TO TAKE OVER FROM EUROPEANS. EMBASSY DOUBTS VERY MUCH THAT WE OR ANYBODY ELSE CAN SIGNIFICANTLY HELP BURUNDIANS COME TO GRIPS WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL SOCIAL PROBLEMS CONFRONTING THEM, AND UNTIL THEY DO, COUNTRY'S CAPACITY TO ABSORB GREATLY INCREASED US ASSISTANCE IS HIGHLY PROBLEMATICAL.
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